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steerage passengers and 75 pieces of large baggage. Nine hundred pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

Smallpox at Naples.

During the week ended February 8, 1902, there were officially reported at Naples 11 cases of smallpox with no deaths.

Plague in Egypt.

During the week ended February 4, 1902, there were 14 new cases of plague with 10 deaths in Egypt. The cases were chiefly at Tanta. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, April 7, 1901, there have been in Egypt a total of 278 cases of plague, resulting in 163 deaths.

Plague in China.

A sanitary ordinance issued at Rome declares Newchang, China, infected with bubonic plague. Arrivals from this place and also from Scianhaikuan are subject to the usual Italian restrictions.

Respectfully,

J. M. EAGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Proposed Government control of the sale of quinine in Italy.

NAPLES, ITALY, *February 12, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report:

There is at present an interesting project of law before the Italian Parliament to give the Government control of the sale of quinine in the Kingdom. The design has hygienic bearings. One of the most noticeable street signs in Italian cities is that of "Salt and Tobacco." The sign carrying also the Government arms is placed above the doors of shops where all the commercial forms of salt and tobacco are sold at retail. At restaurants when a customer wishes to buy cigars or cigarettes it is necessary to send out a messenger to a neighboring official store. A tray containing an assortment of these articles is brought in by an agent. A slight advance in the established price is customarily charged when the goods are dispensed outside the ordinary place of sale. Now it is proposed to include quinine with tobacco and salt, and should the project become a law, as seems probable, it will not be possible to buy the drug elsewhere than at the official dispensaries.

There has been of late a considerable propaganda in the journals, both medical and lay, impressing the prophylactic value of cinchona derivatives in malarial sections. The desolation which has for many years past spread itself over large territories otherwise productive, but notably malarious, has given great popular interest to all measures designed to restore to prosperity the afflicted regions. The designs to restore the Roman Campana from the utter waste that has reigned there for centuries are cases in point.

In a communication made to the Marine-Hospital Bureau last year, I described certain measures of railroad hygiene that have been enforced on lines running through paludal portions of Italy, and at stations situated in places rendered almost uninhabitable by malaria. The regulations of the Italian railroads, which are owned by the Government but leased to private corporations, require all employees who, in the pursuit of their occupation are exposed to malaria, to take a prescribed quantity

of quinine at suitable intervals. The same practice is insisted upon in the public services whose corps are exposed to paludal influences. It is also proposed to make a gratuitous distribution of quinine among indigent persons living in dangerous districts. The idea, aside from the personal benefit to the afflicted individuals, has a wider scope in public hygiene. Any measure calculated to restore to health persons in whose blood malarial organisms exist, or to prevent healthy persons from becoming affected, diminishes the chances of mosquitoes renewing the infection. Thus the spread of malaria is in a degree checked. The public control of quinine, aside from assuring freedom from adulteration and giving public sanction to the use of the drug, is likely to be a considerable source of revenue, because of the fact that in many parts of Italy, quinine is as great a necessity as its proposed commercial associate salt, and quite as much in habitual use as tobacco.

Respectfully,

J. M. EAGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *January 27, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an abstract of the bills of health issued at this port for the week ended January 25, 1902. There were 4 vessels inspected with 314 crew, 33 cabin, and 262 steerage passengers. Of the steerage passengers 186 were bathed and their baggage was disinfected. No quarantinable disease has been reported during the week.

Respectfully,

J. SPENCER HOUGH,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

MEXICO.

Report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *February 9, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended February 8, 1902:

From all causes there were reported 40 deaths, 4 of which were from yellow fever. Four cases of yellow fever were reported for the same period. Two deaths were reported from pernicious fever and 6 from tuberculosis.

Respectfully,

S. H. HODGSON,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.